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NEWS RELEASE

UD'S ELECTRONIC PORTFOLIO APPLICATION TO SERVE AS STUDENT PORTAL — ON STEROIDS

DAYTON, Ohio — This fall the University of Dayton will roll out an interactive electronic portfolio application that will allow students to preserve their best work online, interact with advisers, faculty and other students, guide their academic choices with career and individual goals in mind and emerge after graduation with a complete record of their educational and personal growth.

It's a portal — on steroids.

"The portfolio will provide one electronic place where students can go to enter their whole undergraduate experience," said Patricia A. Johnson, philosophy professor and associate dean for connected learning in the College of Arts and Sciences. "At graduation, they will have a complete record of their progress and a complete portfolio of their work, including written pieces but also photos, music and art that they have created. We are investigating the possibility of putting it all on a CD or other media so they can have access to it after graduation."

It's designed to foster connections between academic work, professional goals and personal and spiritual growth, and it will be a central point for accessing all the other information and resources students will need.

Although it's another leap into technology-enhanced learning, UD officials are committed to preserving the "high-touch," in-person instruction and mentoring that has always characterized a UD education while encouraging the development and implementation of online innovations that aid the learning process, said Fred P. Pestello, provost. "The electronic portfolio is another UD innovation that will serve to keep the University a national leader in the use of technology to enhance the educational process," he said.

It has taken a year for UD's Internet development division and Web partnership to develop the information technology structure, which works by managing complex relationships between each user and the resources, information and services needed by that user. The relationships are created through the integration of numerous University systems as well as

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through each individual user's continued interaction with the application.

It will also provide several areas for information and interaction — learning, living, community and beyond, an area directed at career possibilities. Some parts of the portfolio will be password protected while others will offer open access.

The portfolio will grow gradually, adding features over time. All first-year students will begin using the portfolio this fall and will continue using it through graduation. Portfolio features in the first year will include an online computer ethics course, interactive threaded discussions and places for personal reflection.

Chaminade Scholars in the Christian Leadership Program are using the portfolio to have online discussions and open reflections on leading their lives as vocations and actively integrating faith as a core component of the choices they make.

Johnson describes what will be possible as the portfolio continues to grow: "For example, you've just finished a course. You go into your portfolio and find a list of the skills you should have acquired in the course and a self-evaluation. The portfolio can recommend a service club to join or a subsequent course to take if you want to continue developing those competencies and that knowledge base."

The Web-based portfolio is the latest in a series of technology enhancements at the University, which ranks among the 20 most wired campuses in the country and tops all other universities in Ohio, according to *Yahoo! Internet Life*.

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